

White House VISITOR CENTER

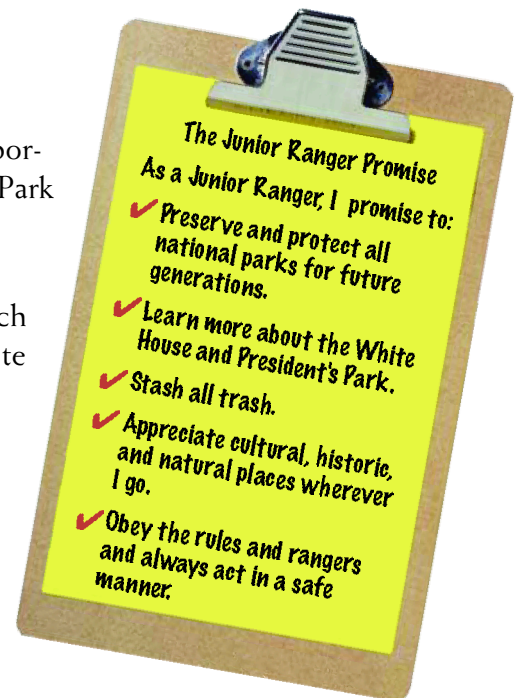
1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Calling All Junior Rangers!

Kids of all ages, America needs your help to preserve, protect and understand the importance of its national treasures! We invite you to pick up a free copy of the President's Park Junior Ranger Program booklet, "On The Spot," available at the White House Visitor Center Information Desk and online.

The Junior Ranger booklet will help you explore the Park, walk in the footsteps of each of the 43 Presidents of the United States, and learn about the significance of the White House and its neighborhood. Return your completed booklet and receive your badge designating you as an official President's Park Junior Ranger! If you're short of time, you can always mail the booklet back; the address is included inside the booklet.

Many other National Parks have Junior Ranger programs, and the National Park Service has a special online resource, "WebRangers," available at its website, www.nps.gov/webrangers, where kids of all ages can continue their National Park adventures.



Around President's Park

The First Division Monument

The First Division Monument is located on the west side of the White House and south of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. As you stroll around President's Park, take a few moments to admire this beautiful monument.

The First Division of the American Expeditionary Forces was created during World War I and has played a vital role in almost every United States military engagement since that time. This monument was created to commemorate the dead of the First Division as well as to convey the spirit of triumph and sacrifice of all American divisions and services.

On the very top of the monument is a statue designed by sculptor Daniel Chester French called "Victory." The statue is made of gilded bronze and

sits atop a tall column of pink granite quarried in Milford, Massachusetts.

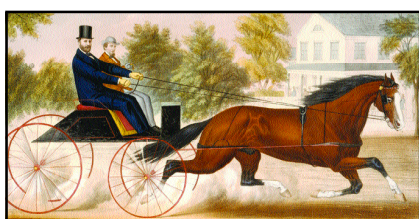
In addition to the names of those who died in World War I, two side panels were added to honor those who died in World War II and Vietnam, and a plaque was added for those who died in Operation Desert Storm. The monument was paid for by members of the First Division and was dedicated in 1924.

Today the monument and grounds are maintained by the National Park Service. The large flower bed in the shape of the First Division's "Big Red One" shoulder patch, located south of the monument, was created in 1965 as part of Lady Bird Johnson's landscaping plans to beautify the District of Columbia.



On Exhibit: Only at the White House Visitor Center

"The Presidential Seal" – The Presidential Seal was inspired by the Great Seal of the United States, created in 1782. The seal began as a small, hand-held die which the President pressed into wax to seal important messages. An early die, probably created by President James K. Polk in 1845, was also used by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. During the Truman administration changes were made to the Presidential Seal, resulting in the creation of this symbol of the Presidency that we know today.



This 1868 Currier & Ives lithograph from the exhibit, "The Age of the Horse," depicts President Ulysses S. Grant and his race horse, Dexter.

Library of Congress

"White House Horses" – This exhibit brings to life the many ways presidential families depended on the horse for transportation, communication and recreation throughout the history of our nation.

"Portraits from the President's House: The Staff of the Executive Residence" – It takes many people to manage a 132 room mansion that functions as the seat of the executive branch of government, a home for the President's family, and a museum for American and international visitors. View these black and white portraits of the "unseen" caretakers of the White House.

SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES



President for a Day

Visitors who “elect” to stop by the White House Visitor Center on **Monday, February 19** between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. may be sworn into office as “President for a day” with the assistance of National Park Service rangers and President’s Park volunteers. During this full day of free activities, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to sample some of the sights, sounds, activities, and personages that have helped to make the White House America’s most historical residence. Visitors will have an opportunity to experience many aspects of White House life from times gone by thanks to the participation of actors from the acclaimed American Historical Theater and National Park Service Rangers and volunteers. The day’s events will include games, crafts and other activities for both children and adults. Chat with Abraham Lincoln or pull up a seat at Dolly Madison’s dinner table, practice Presidential correspondance with a quill pen or step up to the “Bully Pulpit” like Teddy Roosevelt. *For additional information, call the White House Visitor Center in President’s Park at (202) 208-1631.*



A March of First Ladies

On **Saturday, March 10**, “A March of First Ladies” will celebrate the contributions of America’s Presidential spouses between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the White House Visitors Center. Learn about the humanitarianism of Eleanor Roosevelt, Lou Hoover’s role as President of the Girl Scouts, and Frances Cleveland, the only First Lady to be married in the White House! Enjoy crafts that were popular in the 19th century or join an interpretive discussion focusing on the contributions made by these women to define the critically important role of First Lady of the U.S.



It’s Cherry Blossom Time!

On March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft accepted a gift of 3,020 cherry trees from the Japanese government. This year’s annual Cherry Blossom Festival marks the 95th anniversary of this gift. Join us at the White House Visitor Center on **Saturday, March 31** between 12 noon and 3 p.m. Make a tissue paper cherry blossom and hear a Park Ranger’s discussion of the history of these beautiful trees.



WALKS, TALKS AND OTHER THOUGHTS

Interpretive programs, including talks, slides, walks, special events, PowerPoint presentations, and craft programs, are given daily at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. These presentations range from approximately 20 minutes to one hour in length. More detailed descriptions of today’s schedules are available at the White House Visitor Center Information Desk or call (202) 208-1631.

GUIDED WALKS AROUND THE PARK



These Ranger-guided walks stop at the many monuments and memorials around President’s Park.

“A Walk Around President’s Park” –

Discover some of the fascinating facts about this parcel of land surrounding the gates of the White House.

“A Walk Through President’s Park” – Walk the paths of Sherman and Lafayette Parks and follow the progress of the nation against the backdrop of the people represented on some of America’s finest statues, memorials and public buildings.

“A Winter Wonderland” – How do the changing seasons affect the animals, plants and trees in President’s Park?



PROGRAMS ABOUT 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Learn about the White House and what it’s like to live there.

“Inside the West Wing” – A Ranger’s talk focuses on the Presidential workplace.

“Presidents and Baseball” – Spring training will soon begin for America’s “national pastime.” Hear the story of many Presidents’ connections with the sport of baseball.

“Nellie and Me” – A Ranger interprets the story of the cherry trees, as Viscountess Chinda, the wife of the Japanese ambassador, who, along with First Lady Helen Herron Taft, accepted Japan’s gift to the American people in 1912.

“Forty Two Special People” – During February, the month that includes President’s Day, a Ranger will review the history and accomplishments of some of the 42 men who served as President of the United States.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Join a Park Ranger’s discussion about the environs of Washington, D.C. and the White House.

“What’s in this Place?” – Hear a Park Ranger describe the various themed exhibition alcoves in the Visitor Center.

“Frozen in Time” – Hear the stories behind the many statues in President’s Park.



GREAT PEOPLE IN HISTORY

Join a Park Ranger’s discussion about important contributors to our nation’s history:

“The Last Great Battle” – While victorious on the battlefield and in the political arena, there is a greater story of Ulysses S. Grant’s struggle against his most daunting opponent.

“The Dual Adversaries of Alexander Hamilton” – Hear how Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the Treasury, overcame both his early status in a stratified society and a relatively short life – to achieve greatness.

PULL UP A SEAT!



The documentary video, “Air Force One,” will be screened at 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays: **January 6 and 20, February 10 and 24, and March 17 and 31.**



In observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, the video, “I Have a Dream” will be shown on **Sunday, January 15** at 12 noon.



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour



Video Presentation



Special Event



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at wbho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.